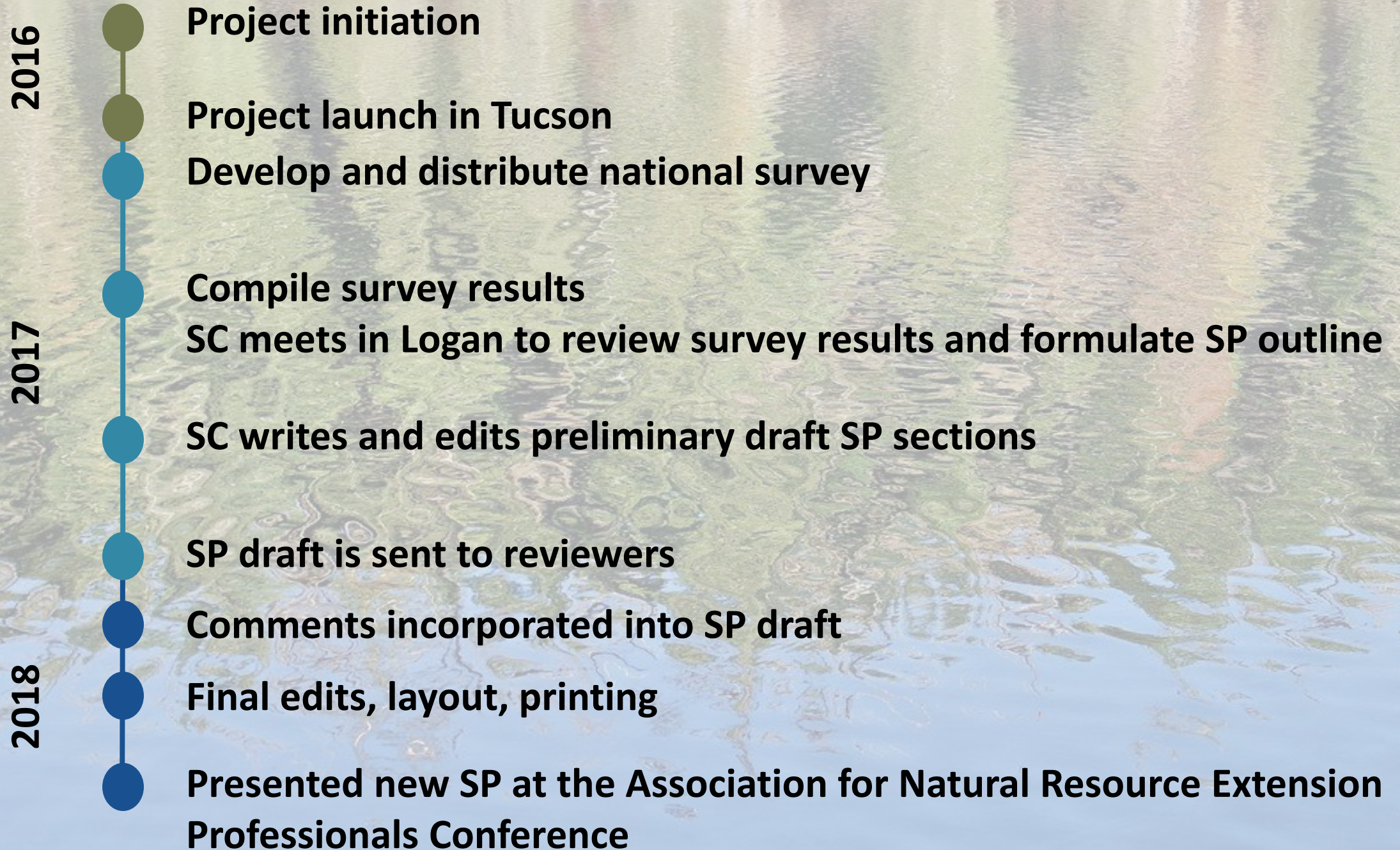




**In 2016, the Rangelands Partnership was selected to review and update the 2012-2016 Renewable Resources Extension Act Strategic Plan**



# SUSTAINING THE NATION'S FOREST AND RANGELAND RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**RREA**  
2018-2022



RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE STATE FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP



**Ecosystem Services**



**Fish & Wildlife Habitat**



Critical Issues

**Generational  
Succession & Land  
Ownership Changes**



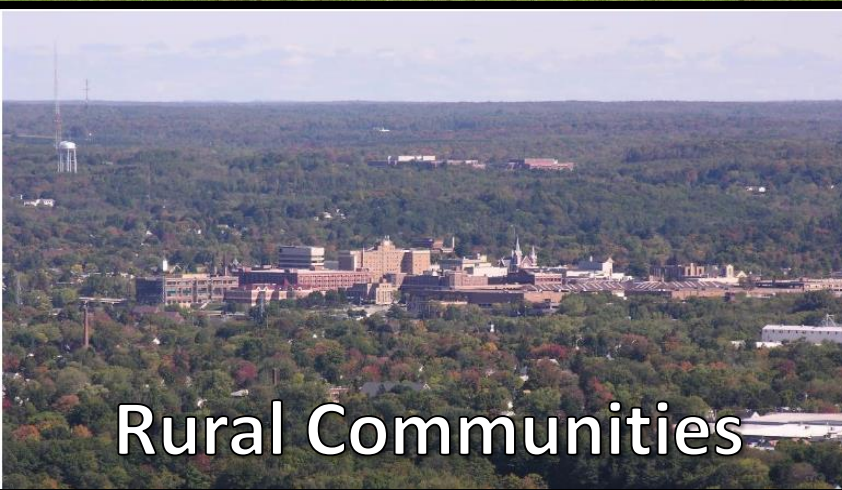
**Invasive Species**



**Landowner  
Engagement**



**Public Awareness &  
Youth Engagement**



**Rural Communities**



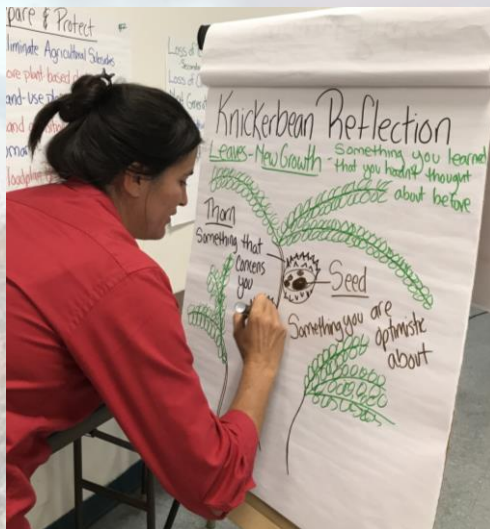
**Water & Wetlands**



**Wildfire Prevention &  
Management**

## Teaching Methods

New modes of teaching include online videos, peer-to-peer trainings, distance learning, and Citizen Scientists



## Technology

Extension Educators should identify appropriate technologies and determine how to use them effectively and efficiently to achieve desired learning outcomes



## Program Delivery

Extension Educators showed considerable interest in adopting new program delivery method



Social Media



E-Newsletters



Webinars



Videos

## Evaluation

Short-term outcomes (i.e. # of attendees) should be combined with longer-term data (Logic Model) to gain a more in-depth understanding of impacts



[globalrangelands.org/rreasp](http://globalrangelands.org/rreasp)



# Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)

*Project to Update the Strategic Plan for Forest and Rangeland Extension Professionals*

[Home](#)
[Strategic Plan  
2018-2022](#)
[Survey  
Results 2017](#)
[Past Strategic  
Plans](#)
[Accomplishments  
2012-2016](#)
[Legislation &  
Resources](#)

## Summary

In the fall of 2016, the Rangelands Partnership, with the University of Arizona as lead institution, was awarded a grant to review and update the 2012-2016 RREA Strategic Plan. The Steering Committee was composed of regional representatives from rangeland and forestry Extension, as well as librarians and information technology (IT) experts.

The overall goal of this project is to provide RREA with a new strategic plan that will document current and emerging issues faced by private forest and rangeland managers and the actions Extension Programs will undertake to address them. The primary audiences for the project's tools and resources are Extension directors and Extension educators, specifically those working in the area of forestry and rangeland management on public and private land. This audience was reached during this project period primarily through a national survey to forestry and rangeland Extension professionals. The objective was to understand current and future trends in outreach priorities and activities.

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). RREA is unique among the capacity programs at NIFA in that it is a blended program of capacity and competitive funding. The goal of the program is to enhance the sustainability of the nation's forest and rangeland resources through the development of innovative programs that can be delivered at regional and national scales. These projects maximize the capacity, reach, and impact of the Cooperative Extension System - Extension Forestry and Rangeland Programs and result in Extension programs that span state boundaries in order to share expertise to address common problems.

- Executive Summary: Strategic Plan 2018-2022
- Stakeholder Summary: Strategic Plan 2018-2022





# Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)

*Project to Update the Strategic Plan for Forest and Rangeland Extension Professionals*

[Home](#)[Strategic Plan  
2018-2022](#)[Survey  
Results 2017](#)[Past Strategic  
Plans](#)[Accomplishments  
2012-2016](#)[Legislation &  
Resources](#)

## Strategic Plan 2018-2022

In the United States, more than half of the nation's forest lands<sup>[1]</sup> and rangelands<sup>[2]</sup> are under private ownership. Recognizing the sustainability of the nation's forest and rangeland resources largely depends on the actions of the millions of private forest owners, farmers, ranchers, and land managers, this next RREA strategic plan focuses on these traditional stakeholder groups. However, this plan also suggests a renewed commitment to serving the needs of audiences noted in the original legislation, and which were also identified in the national survey as emerging audiences, including policy-makers, the interested public, and youth.

This plan confirms a unified mission and vision for natural resource Extension programs funded by the RREA. It also provides insights into emerging technologies, shifting preferences for communication and learning, and changing demographics and audiences, and confirms the need to demonstrate value and cost-effectiveness for the use of federal tax dollars. In addition, the plan suggests strategies for improved evaluation, teaching methods, program delivery, and the incorporation of new technologies into programming. At the core of this plan is a description of nine critical issues, including goals, actions, and potential performance measures, that Extension professionals, administrators, and stakeholder groups identified as most relevant to natural resource management efforts.

At the same time, during the process of updating the plan, the potential continued loss of expertise was identified as a crucial issue not only in terms of business enterprises, but in the changing leadership among forestry and rangeland professionals. In the coming years, the need for enhanced Extension programming will be even more important as current natural resource leaders retire and the next generation of professionals take their places or, even more significantly, due to the potential loss of positions through attrition. Increased mentoring and professional development programs will be vital, and meeting information needs through ubiquitous and emerging technologies to disseminate, inform, and teach will be essential.

Finally, the 2018-2022 strategic planning team believes that forest and rangeland Extension professionals will find this document useful in developing the enhanced programming made possible through RREA support. Indeed, the plan is designed to be informative about current trends and issues on a national basis while recognizing regional and local differences, and to provide guidance on programming strategies.

- [2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#)
- [Strategic Planning Team](#)

# Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)

*Project to Update the Strategic Plan for Forest and Rangeland Extension Professionals*

[Home](#)[Strategic Plan  
2018-2022](#)[Survey  
Results 2017](#)[Past Strategic  
Plans](#)[Accomplishments  
2012-2016](#)[Legislation &  
Resources](#)

## Survey Results 2017

To understand changing trends in Extension activities and priorities, a national survey was created and distributed in the Spring of 2017 to Natural Resource Extension professionals and RREA program leaders, particularly those working in the area of private and public forests and rangelands. The survey was distributed to approximately 430 people with 238 responses received (response rate of 55%). The project team met in Logan, Utah in May 2017 to analyze and categorize survey responses. These results determined the nine areas of interest in the new SP including: landowner engagement, public awareness, intergenerational transfer, ecosystem services, invasive species, wildlife habitat and management, water and wetlands, wildfire, and rural economics. The survey also revealed information about current and future trends in program evaluation, the use of technology within programs, and teaching approaches and methods.

The following resources include a PowerPoint overview of the raw data that was presented at the 2017 Rangelands Partnership annual meeting, and the Survey Results pdf provides charts of summarized data for each question included in the survey.

- [Overview of Raw Data](#) (pdf)
- [Survey Results](#) (pdf)

## Supported By

This work is supported by the Renewable Resources Extension Act Program [grant no. USDA-NIFA-EXCA-005457] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

The project to update the 2012-2016 RREA Strategic Plan was awarded to The Rangelands Partnership in 2016.



## Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)

*Project to Update the Strategic Plan for Forest and Rangeland Extension Professionals*

[Home](#)[Strategic Plan  
2018-2022](#)[Survey  
Results 2017](#)[Past Strategic  
Plans](#)[Accomplishments  
2012-2016](#)[Legislation &  
Resources](#)

### Past Strategic Plans

Two previous strategic plans (2005 and 2012), each based on input from RREA funding recipients, provided context on trends affecting the condition of forests and rangelands, as well as guidance on stakeholder needs to address those trends.

- [RREA Strategic Plan for the State-Federal Partnership 2005-2009](#)
- [RREA Strategic Plan for the State-Federal Partnership 2012-2016](#)

### Supported By

This work is supported by the Renewable Resources Extension Act Program [grant no. USDA-NIFA-EXCA-005457] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

The project to update the 2012-2016 RREA Strategic Plan was awarded to The Rangelands Partnership in 2016.



# Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)

*Project to Update the Strategic Plan for Forest and Rangeland Extension Professionals*

[Home](#)
[Strategic Plan  
2018-2022](#)
[Survey  
Results 2017](#)
[Past Strategic  
Plans](#)
[Accomplishments  
2012-2016](#)
[Legislation &  
Resources](#)

## Accomplishments

This table provides documentation of RREA-supported programming achievements for the years 2012-2016

*Summary of Quantitative Indicators Compiled by RREA (data provided by USDA NIFA RREA).*

Number of educational events conducts	Number of private landowners, managers, and public land users who implemented or adopted a new practice or management program	Number of direct and indirect contacts who increased awareness or knowledge	Number of forest and rangeland acres impacted
5,760	73,749	13,252,089	52,491,229
Number of new jobs created	Number of new forest, rangeland, or fish and wildlife income generating businesses created or expanded	<b>Estimated number of dollars earned or saved by forest, rangeland, fish and wildlife income generating business</b>	
3,153	1,148	<b>2012-2016 Total \$269,315,698</b>	<b>Annual Average \$53,863,140</b>

- [RREA Popular Reports FY2015 Compiled](#) (pdf)
- [RREA REEorts FY2015 Compiled](#) (pdf)
- [RREA Quantitative Indicators - 2015-2016](#) (excel)

# Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)

*Project to Update the Strategic Plan for Forest and Rangeland Extension Professionals*

[Home](#)
[Strategic Plan  
2018-2022](#)
[Survey  
Results 2017](#)
[Past Strategic  
Plans](#)
[Accomplishments  
2012-2016](#)
[Legislation &  
Resources](#)

## Legislation & Resources

### Revisiting the Purpose of the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)

In June of 1978, Congress passed the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) "to provide for an expanded and comprehensive extension program for forest and rangeland renewable resources". The first appropriation from Congress was in 1982. Given that more than three decades have passed since this initial legislation was enacted by Congress, and due to considerable new challenges and pressures on government, academic, and stakeholder finances, as well as on global environmental conditions, it is important to revisit the original intention of the RREA. The following excerpts clearly articulate Congress's intention:

- *the extension program of the Department of Agriculture and the extension activities of each State provide useful and productive educational programs for private forest and range landowners and processors and consumptive and nonconsumptive users of forest and rangeland renewable resources, and these educational programs complement research and assistance programs conducted by the Department of Agriculture;*
- *to meet national goals, it is essential that all forest and rangeland renewable resources (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "renewable resources"), including fish and wildlife, forage, outdoor recreation opportunities, timber, and water, be fully considered in designing educational programs*

Further, USDA and State directors of Cooperative Extension are called on to implement enhanced educational programs on renewable resources that:

- *enable individuals to recognize, analyze, and resolve problems;*
- *disseminate the results of research;*
- *transfer the best available technology;*
- *give special attention to small, private non-industrial forest landowners;*
- *provide continuing education programs; and*
- *deliver a comprehensive education program for landowners and managers, public officials, and the public, with particular emphasis on youth.*

Example programming included, but was not limited to meetings, short courses, workshops, tours, demonstrations, publications, news releases, and radio and television programs.

In addition, State directors and heads of Extension programs were tasked to develop "a single comprehensive and coordinated renewable resources extension program in which the role of each eligible college and university [land-grant] is well-defined." Key to this process is consultation and agreements with extension professionals and key State and Federal organizations. The overall purpose of RREA clearly stated a commitment to *promote policies and practices that enhance the health, vitality, productivity, economic value, and environmental attributes of the forest [and range] lands of the United States.*

- [Renewable Resources Extension Act Of 1978](#)
- [RREA Amendments Contained in Sections 1219 and 1251 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990](#)
- [RREA Capacity Grants](#)
- [NIFA's Discretionary and Mandatory Funding](#)
- [NIFA/RREA Planning and Reporting Guide](#)

## Next Steps

Layout

**Share your photos of forest or rangelands**

Print and share the new Strategic Plan

Webinars (if funding is available)

Project Team

